

Mr. Mir Mahomed Sahib.—

In view of the most backward condition of the people in the Malnad, will the Government consider the question of establishing land mortgage banks in all malnad taluks, specially in view of the fact that a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs is still available out of the same grant?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

The Board has first to consider all applications. The Government cannot answer on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Mir Mahomed Sahib.—

Is it not possible for Government to provide all the remaining amount for granting takavi loans in places where there are no land mortgage banks now?

First Member of Council.—

It is not impossible.

Mr. Tudki Ramanna Gowda.—

Will the Government consider the question of sanctioning Rs. 1 lakh out of the balance available for the malnad taluks exclusively?

Dewan.—

I am afraid that may not be possible.

Mr. A. Kenchappa (Arsikere Taluk).—

Q.—32. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) Whether a promise was not made in this Assembly that it would take about two years to instal electric lights in all the important municipal towns in the Hassan District?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Electrical Department has consulted the municipal councils concerned in the matter and collected information?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

A.—32. (a) Government are not aware of any such promise having been made.

(b) Yes.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

Mr. S. V. Gurumurthyachar.—

What arrangements have been made by Government to give electric lights to Hassan, Hole-Narsipur, Channarayapatna and Belur?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

A main line has to be taken from Mysore to Bhadravati first and then on to Hassan. The cost of taking a line to Hassan independently will be prohibitive.

Mr. S. V. Gurumurthyachar.—

When will the line to Bhadravati be taken?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

That is under consideration.

Mr. S. V. Gurumurthyachar.—

How will a separate line to Hassan be prohibitive?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

The return will not be adequate.

Mr. S. V. Gurumurthyachar.—

If the municipality agrees to meet all the expenditure, cannot a separate line be taken?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

The municipality cannot afford to meet all the expenditure.

Mr. Sher Khan.—

If the line is taken to Bhadravati, will power be supplied to Davangere?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

That also is under consideration.

Another Member.—

In all the places where electric lights have already been installed, have the Government been getting an adequate return?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

Sometimes not. But that is no reason why Government should give lights to other places, knowing that the return will not be adequate.

The Member.—

Had not the Government originally proposed that the Bhadravati main line should pass through Tiptur and Arsikere?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

Yes; but the cost will be prohibitive.

Mr. H. B. Gundappa.—

Has the Electrical Department consulted the municipalities of Hassan, Yedatore and Arsikere in the matter of electrification of their respective towns?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

Yes, they have; but no reply has been received from them.

Mr. H. B. Gundappa.—

Will electric lights be given if all the municipalities agree to pay their respective contributions?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

It all depends upon how much they agree to contribute and how much they can actually contribute.

Mr. H. B. Gundappa.—

What is the percentage of return that Government expect on the capital invested?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

Five per cent net after deducting depreciation, operation and maintenance charges.

Mr. H. B. Gundappa.—

In view of the fact that the project will be big if all these places are connected, is it not possible to fix the percentage of return at a lower figure?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

Perhaps the Government may reduce it to about 4 or $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Mr. H. B. Gundappa.—

That will not be a substantial reduction. Taking into consideration the low rates of interest prevailing in the general money market, cannot the Government further reduce the percentage, say to 1 per cent?

First Member of Council.—

That is too small a percentage. It is the policy of Government to give electric lights to all towns provided the capital investment in each case yields an adequate return.

Mr. H. B. Gundappa.—

Have not the Government provided a lakh of rupees or so in the current year's budget for the electrification of Yedatore and Hunsur, and have not the concerned municipalities also undertaken to give the guarantee required?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

No doubt, provision has been made. But the estimates have not been sanctioned because the full return has not been guaranteed.

REPRESENTATIONS.

No. 1.—Reduction of salaries of Government officers drawing above Rs. 100.

Mr. V. Venkatasami Chetty, Chikballapur Municipality.

MR. V. VENKATASAMI CHETTY prayed that the salaries of all Government officers drawing above Rs. 100 be cut down by 25 per cent as a temporary measure till the financial position of the State improved.

THE DEWAN replied that he regretted it was not possible for Government to accept the suggestion.